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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW
OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
Fourth session
3 May 1996

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ITS THIRD SESSION

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 23 January 1996, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/80. The Working Group held four meetings and held a number of informal meetings as a drafting group.

B. Agenda and organization of work

2. At its first meeting, on 10 January, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/AC.70/1996/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. General review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

3. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its third session.

C. Attendance

3. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt,

Germany, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also attended the session.

5. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Society for International Development

Soroptimist International

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category II

All India Women

American Association of Retired Persons

Amnesty International

Human Rights Internet

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres

International Service for Human Rights

OISCA-International

World Federalist Movement

Roster

Third World Network

Others

Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses

Canadian Council for International Cooperation

Carter Centre

Citizen's Network for Sustainable Development

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center

Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN)

Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Network)

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre

D. Documentation

6. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.70/1996/1);

(b) Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations on its second session: compilation of proposals (E/1995/83/Add.1);

(c) Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1996/NGO/1);

(d) Statement submitted by World Wide Fund for Nature International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I); Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights, Habitat International Coalition, International Commission of Jurists, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, OXFAM (United Kingdom and Ireland), Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, and World Student Christian Federation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II); and Asian Cultural Forum on Development, International Movement Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, and Women's Environment and Development Organization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (Roster) (E/AC.70/1996/NGO/2).

II. GENERAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

7. The Working Group considered agenda item 2 at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings on 10, 16, 19 and 23 January 1996.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 10 January, Ambassador Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), Vice-President of the Council and Chairman of the informal consultations, made an introductory statement.

9. At the same meeting, statements were also made by two non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II), the Lutheran World Federation and the International Service for Human Rights.

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 January, the representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made a statement.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: World Federation of United Nations Associations and International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (category I); and World Federalist Movement (category II).

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development: Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center, Instituto del Tercer Mundo, and Pacific Concerns Resource Centre.

13. At the 3rd meeting, on 19 January, the Chairman of the informal consultations reported on the status of consultations in the drafting group.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: OISCA-International and Soroptimist International (category I); International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (category II); and Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses (Roster).

15. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN), a non-governmental organization accredited to the World Summit for Social Development.

16. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 23 January, the Chairman of the informal consultations reported on their status in the drafting group.

18. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement.

19. Subsequently, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and of China), Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Japan, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

20. Statements were also made by the Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs of the Secretariat and by the Secretary of the Council.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ITS THIRD SESSION

21. At its 4th meeting, on 23 January, the Working Group adopted the draft report (E/AC.70/1996/L.1).

22. At the same meeting, the observer for the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) made a statement.